

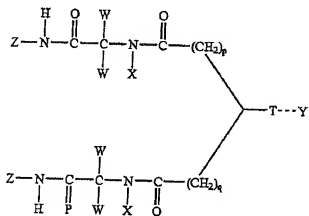
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-21. (Cancelled)

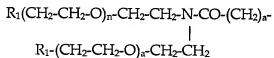
22. (New) A compound of the formula



formula (XII)

in which

Z is a C₁-C₈-alkyl, or a group of the formula (X'a), (X'b) or (IIa)



formula (X'a)

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Supplemental Amendment

$R_1-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-CH_2-CH_2-NH-CO-(CH_2)_a-$ formula (X'b)

$R_1-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-CH_2-CH_2-$ formula (IIa)

wherein

a is, on each occasion, an integer from 0 to 50, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer from 3 to 1000, and

R_1 is H, HO, CH_3O- , $CH_3-(CH_2)_a-O-$, where a is an integer from 1 to 20,

$(CH_3)_2CH-O-$, $(CH_3O)_2-$, $(CH_3-CH_2O)_2-$, $OHC-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=CH-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=CH-CO_2-$, $CH_2=C(CH_3)-CO_2-$, $CH_2=CH-CONH-$, $H_2N-CH_2-CH_2-$ or $A-NH-CH_2-CH_2-$ where A is a protecting group,

X is a residue of formula (IIa),

W is independently at each occurrence hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon residue or a residue of formula (IIa),

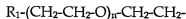
T is a linker group, which is an alkyl chain which is branched or unbranched, saturated or unsaturated and which optionally contains one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O,

Y is selected from the group consisting of $(O-alkyl)_2$, $-OSO_2CH_2CF_3$ (tresyl), $(O-aryl)-azides$, maleimidyl, $-O-CO$ -nitrophenyl or trichlorophenyl, $-S-S$ -alkyl, $-S-S$ -aryl, $-SO_2$ -alkenyl (vinylsulfone), or -halogen (Cl, Br or I), and $-CO-Q$, where Q is selected independently from the group consisting of H, O-N-succinimide, O-N-sulfosuccinimide, O-N-phthalimide, O-N-glutarimide, O-N-tetrahydrophthalimide, N-norbornene-2,3-dicarboximide, hydroxybenzotriazoles and hydroxy-7-azabenzotriazoles,

p and q are in each case integers from 0 to 5, and

the residues W, X and Z together comprise at least two residues which have the formula (IIa)

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formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, HO, CH_3O- , $CH_3-(CH_2)_a-O-$, where a is an integer from 1 to 20, $(CH_3)_2CH-O-$, $(CH_3O)_2-$, $(CH_3-CH_2O)_2-$, $OHC-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=CH-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=CH-CO_2-$, $CH_2=C(CH_3)-CO_2-$, $CH_2=CH-CONH-$, $H_2N-CH_2-CH_2-$ or $A-NH-CH_2-CH_2-$ where A is a protecting group, and n is, on each occasion, independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

23. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein the compound comprises at least three residues which have formula (IIa).

24. (New) The compound of claim 22, wherein T is derived from glutamic acid.

25. (New) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 22.

26. (New) A diagnostic composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 22.